



## MCDD QUICK NEWS

Here's What's Happening in Council Offices  
for the month of October 2007

### **CHARTING YOUR FUTURE EVENT, A HUGE SUCCESS**

The event evaluations have confirmed it - the Charting Your Future, learning opportunity was a huge success! Over 220 persons from across Montana attended the event held September 24, 25, 26, 2007 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn hotel here in Helena. Based upon the ratings provided by the completed evaluations, the event rated as a 3.75 on a scale of 1 to 4. Special thanks go out to all the speakers and presenters, attendees, exhibitors, RSVP volunteers, event planning team, Council members and staff for all their hard work and dedication to make this event the success it is!

### **NEXT MCDD MEETING TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 17, 18, 2008**

The Council will ring in the new year with our next regularly scheduled Council meeting being held on January 17, 18, 2008 (as per our adopted FFY2008 meeting schedule). The meeting location will be the Red Lion Colonial Hotel. Meeting packets, agendas and other information will be in the mail to Council members in early December. Please mark your calendars to attend and let's keep our fingers crossed for good traveling weather!

### **MEETINGS ONGOING WITH PEOPLE FIRST CHAPTERS STATEWIDE**

It has been a very busy October with travel to the individual People Chapters by Council staff and organization consultant, Roger Shelley. As of this point in time Billings, Livingston and Malta have been visited, with the balance of Chapters scheduled in the near future. Each visit has been very well received and the Chapter members are excited and very engaged about making their own financial decisions. Each Chapter is exploring fundraising potential to increase their available finances. Individual budgets are being determined by each Chapter, and voted on by each Chapter as to how they want to expend their Council dollars and a billing process is in place. We will be posting photographs taken with each Chapter very soon on the Council website, [www.mtcdd.org](http://www.mtcdd.org)

## **Social Security Announces 2.3% Benefit Increase for 2008**

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for more than 54 million Americans will increase 2.3 percent in 2008, the Social Security Administration announced.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits increase automatically each year based on the rise in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)*, from the third quarter of the prior year to the corresponding period of the current year. This year's increase in the CPI-W was 2.3 percent.

The 2.3 percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that nearly 50 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2008. Increased payments to more than 7 million Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries will begin on December 31.

Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$102,000 from \$97,500. Of the estimated 164 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2008, nearly 12 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum.

Information about Medicare changes for 2008 can be found at [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov).

### **Dates of Interest**

MT Transportation Partnership	Helena	11/14/07
MT Assoc. Community Disability Services	Missoula	11/13-15/07
MCDD Meeting	Helena	1/17-18/08

Please contact Council staff for additional information on these meetings.

**HAVE A SAFE AND FUN HALLOWEEN!**

